श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र : मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं आया। मैंने पूछा था कि क्या बोर्ड की ओर से कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था है जितना बर्बाद हो रहा हर संस्थान से उसकी कोई सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट तैयारी की जायेगी ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to konw what is the extent of devastation caused by pollution.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, the quantum of damages which are caused by pollution has not been ascertained.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 147. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, we want half-an-hour discussion on the question of pollution.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, we want half-an-hour discussion. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You know it, Mr. Jagesh Desai, and everybody knows it, how half-an-hour discussion is sanctioned. You know the method.

*147. [*The questioner (Shri N. E. Balaram) was absent. For answers* vide *cols.* 36 infra].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Question No. 148.

Production of Burley Tobacco

*148. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of Burley tobacco and how it is consumed;

(b) what was its annual export and its internal consumption during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps are being taken to augment its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The annual production of burley tobacco during 1988-89 is estimated at 6.70 M. Kgs. Burley tobacco is used for blending with FCV tobacco in manufacture of cigarettes.

(b) The requirement of burley tobacco for the domestic industry is between 4.5 M. Kgs. to 5.5 M. Kgs. per annum. The export of burley tobacco for the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (M.Kgs.)
1986-87	0.61
1987-88	0.96
1988-89	1.30

(c) Light soil burley tobacco which is superior than the traditional burley tobacco has an export potential. Programmes for encouraging production of light soil variety of burley tobacco like construction of burley-curing sheds, propagation of improved practices of production etc. have been drawn up by the Tobacco Board. The trade delegations have been sponsored to explore the possibilities of export of burley tobaccos and its samples exhibited in foreign fairs and exhibitions.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, I think that the hon. Minister is ignorant of the facts or is purposefully misleading the House by giving wrong answers. The Tobacco Board is not looking after the welfare of the burley tobacco. Burley tobacco is not included under the purview of the Tobacco Board. That is why I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister about a month back to amend the Act of the Tobacco Board so that it covers burley tobacco also. But the Minister says

that the Tobacco Board prepared a plan and this and that. It is not correct. It is fiction. Tobacco Board never prepares a plan about burley tobacco. Tobacco Board is concerned with FCU tobacco and sweet virginia tobacco, but not burley tobacco. The second aspect that the Hon. Minister mentioned in his statement is that the total production in this country during 1988-89 is 6.7 million kgs. out of which 1.3 million kgs. is sought to be exported and the internal consumption is supposed to be 5.5 million kgs. So, under these circumstances, according to Minister's own figures, the ruling price of Burley tobacco was Rs 12-13 per kg. How is it that the price went down to Re. 1/- or even less than that during this year? Can the hon. Minister explain the reason for this steep fall in price of Burley tobacco in Andhra Pradesh, more so in Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, Bhadrachalam, Khammam and other parts of the State?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: First of all I would like to clarify to the hon. Member that I am not at all ignorant of the subject and what he has stated. I will clarify it. Secondly the answer is not wrongful; it is complete with facts. Finally, the hon. Member raised the point and I would like to reply that precisely that non-virginia tobacco is not, right from the production level and marketing level looked after by the Tobacco Board as such. The overall planning, production and other things are looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the respective State Governments and their Ministries of Agriculture. However, the point is very correct that Burley tobacco is not getting a better export market throughout the world. We do not get export market and export of Burley tobacco is very insignificant. It is precisely used for a kind of blending with virginia tobacco from time to time used for cigarettes in the domestic industry. Therefore the requirement of domestic industry depends on the domestic market depression and upward trends, for blending of the Burley tobacco. In so far as exports are concerned, we are trying as much as we can to expand the basic virginia tobacco exports which, the hon. Member will appreciate, is very difficult these days due to basic anti-smoking campaign throughout the world. Along with that, a little bit of Burley tobacco which we can export, we are trying to export. About the price which has suddenly fallen in so far as Burley tobacco is concerned, I agree with the hon. Member. The price has fallen drastically. It is precisely because the requirement of our domestic industry is now being met mostly by the virginia tobacco so far as cigarette manufacture is concerned, and for blending proper, the glut in production appears to be due to the reason that they do not require it as much as they would like to take. However, in regard to the suggestion of the hon. Member as to why the Tobacco Board does not come forward to look into the matter, I agree with him. He is very right to ask as to who is the father, who is the nodal agency to look after the arrangement of all the non-virginia tobacco, including Burley tobacco. I would like to inform him that we have already asked the hon. Minister for Agriculture and my senior colleague, Dinesh Singhji is taking initiative to find out whether Agriculture Minister will be in a position to set up a different kind of Board as far as non-virginia tobacco is concerned to look into these aspects. We are still awaiting their reply. If we do not get a positive response very soon, we will certainly look into the matter once again whether within the purview of the Tobacco Board, we can take up this matter on our own.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The Minister finds an alibi under anti-smoking. Anti-smoking campaign is in every country throughout the world. But at the same time, India is the only country which has been a traditional exporter of tobacco. The Minister failed to give reasons as to why China refused to enter the Indian market, why the USSR reduced their quota of tobacco from India, why U.K.

is going to other countries rather than traditionally purchasing from India. These aspects have to be looked into. The Minister knows pretty well and I don't think it will not be fair on my part to expose the Government on this issue, because there are powerful organs working in the country, more so in the Government, and I know some of the Ministers also sought reduction in export quota of tobacco to the USSR, in order to safeguard the interests of certain traders in Guntur. You are safeguarding their interests. You know pretty well why Chinese refused to enter our market; you know it. Why don't you negotiate with the Chinese and bring them to Indian market so that our export quota continues as before? Take the case of Brazil. During 1964, Brazil was exporting only 10,000 tonnes of tobacco as well as tobacco products. As on today, Brazil is exporting as much as 2.5 lakh tonnes of tobacco and tobacco products, whereas India, about ten years back, we were exporting—India was the premier country to export virginia tobacco...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the question.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Now, our export quota of tobacco has been reduced thanks to the performance of the Ministry of Commerce and the S.T.C. It is a total failure on the part of the S.T.C.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: He has asked about China.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: What are the reasons for the withdrawal of the Chinese from the Indian market and for reduction of quota by the U.S.S.R?

Then, the hon. Minister has talked about some trade delegations. What does he mean by this? Why don't you take it up at the level of the Ministers, with your counterparts in China and U.S.S.R? What is the use of sending trade delegations? You will only pick up some traders of your choice and send them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has understood your question.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member. He is a little bit ignorant. The question relates only to Burley tobacco and not to Virginia tobacco. It is precise and specific. I have explained the position in regard to Burley tobacco. The hon. Member belongs to Andhra Pradesh. He must know the classification...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is from Guntur.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: I know. Since he is from Guntur, he should know more than me. We have all along been discussing only Burley tobacco and not the question of export of Virginia tobacco. As I said, the question is only about Burley tobacco and I have answered it.

The hon. Member asked about the export quota. I have been to Guntur. I would like to say categorically in the House that we have been, at no point of time, under the pressure of any lobby whatsoever But in regard to the export of Virginia tobacco, our Government took it up with the Soviet Union time and again to increase the quota, whatever is possible. I met the leaders of different political parties at Guntur, on the auction platform, and they appreciated our endeavour. Not only that. When there was price depression, the S.T.C. undertook rescue operation. But if the whole world decides to buy less tobacco to build up anti-smoking campaign, what can I do? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in fact, the Commerce Ministry is the enemy of the farmers, the tobacco growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Tobacco growers all over India wanted that all types of tobacco should be brought under the purview of the Tobacco Board of India. But this Ministry, the Commerce Ministry, wants that the Tobacco Board of India should function only in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Then, why do you call it 'The Tobacco Board of India'? Tobacco growers from Gujarate have demanded that their tobacco should be brought under the purview of the Tobacco Board. The Agriculture Ministry has no objection. Only the Commerce Ministry has objection. Sometime back, they suggested that the Tobacco Board Act should be amended so that it functions only in Andhra Pradesh and not elsewhere. But under the original Act, the Tobacco Board is supposed to deal with all types of tobacco. The Commerce Ministry is responsible for the delay and not the Agriculture Ministry. As I said, the Agriculture Ministry has no objection. I have talked a number of times to the Agriculture Minister. I am a Member of the Tobacco Board. I know what the Commerce Ministry wants. My specific question is, whether you will agree to bring all types of tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board or not. Secondly, he said that Burley tobacco is dealt with by the Tobacco Board. No. Only Virginia tobacco comes under this. You should correct your reply. Burley tobacco does not come under the purview of the Tobacco Board. Anyway, as I asked earlier, I would like to know whether the Ministry would bring all types of tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board because the Tobacco Board can teach the farmers how to grow better tobacco. I would like to have a categorical reply in this regard.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Sir, the hon. Member himself is a member of the Tobacco Board. He should know about the functioning of the Tobacco Board. If its functioning is good the credit goes to him also. If its functioning is bad, he should also share the responsibility. But we are very clear. Our eyes are selfishly fixed on those commodities where we have export access and production of such agricultural commodities is precisely looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. Our Commerce Ministry looks to the technical aspect of it, that is we are dealing with the export of these items. About the aspect that the hon. Member explained in regard to non-virginia tobacco, it is a fact that these are mostly used for burley tobacco, bidi tobacco and many other things which have hardly any access to the export market. Yet, I do not say that there is any doubt that it will not be taken over under the Tobacco Board, we only say that the Agricultural Ministry has to inform us categorically that they are not in a position to form a separate Board for this, that they cannot govern the whole affair. Since they are not giving a final answer to us, we have not taken any decision. If they fail to give us any positive reply we will certainly look into it within the parameters of the Tobacco Board and see what we can do for this.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I want to make a suggestion. Would the Minister consider having an informal meeting like they do in the railways with the Tobacco Board, with the Ministry officials, with the STC officials and the growers of tobacco, Members of Parliament who represent tobacco growing areas? This may give us more realistic picture of the whole thing.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Suggestion for what?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Suggestion for not going in for smoking. Otherwise, you might find your portfolio going away into smoke.

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: Perhaps she does not know what I do not smoke at all.

I would, however, like to inform you that we are in touch with the tobacco growing area representatives, but this is the specific suggestion to consult the M.Ps. of those respective regions. We shall certainly consider it and by the end of the Session hopefully we shall invite all of them, positively by that time if they do not resign from Parliament.

वन संरक्षण

*149. डा० अबरार अहमद खान : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस तथ्य की जानकारी है कि वनों को लगातार काटा जा रहा है, उनको साफ किया जा रहा है, यदि हां, तो वनों को बचाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ;

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान कितने क्षेत्र में वन थे और इस समय कितने क्षेत्र में हैं तथा वन संरक्षण पर प्रतिवर्ष कितनी राशि खर्च की जाती है ; और

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों में राजस्थान में कितने क्षेत्र में वन थे और इस समय कितने क्षेत्र में हैं तथा राज्य में वन संरक्षण पर प्रति वर्ष कितनी राशि खर्च की जाती है और उसके क्या परिणाम रहे ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमति ओरांव) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है।

विवरण

(क) सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि वनों को लगातार काटा जा रहा है । वनों को बचाने के लिये निम्नलिखित महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाये गये हैं:—

1. राष्ट्रीय वन नीति, 1988 में वनों के संरक्षण पर अधिक जोर दिया गया है ;

2. वनेतर प्रयोजनों के लिये वन भूमि के उपयोग को रोकने के लिये 1980 में वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम बनाया गया । 1988 में इसमें संशोधन करके इसे और अधिक कठोर बनाया गया ।

3. वनों की सुरक्षा के लिये आधारभूत ढांचा तैयार करने हेतु राज्यों को सहायता के लिये एक केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित स्कीम प्रारम्भ की गई ।

4. वनों की सुरक्षा के लिये राज्य/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों की सरकारों को समय-समय पर मार्गदर्शी सिद्धांत जारी किये गये ।

5. इमारती लकड़ी के आयात को उदार बनाया गया है तथा लकड़ी के विकल्पों को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है ।

(ख) उपग्रह प्रतिबिम्बिकी का प्रयोग करके भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण द्वारा किये गये एक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 1981–83 में देश में 642 लाख हेक्टेयर वनाच्छादित क्षेत्र था । इसके बाद कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया गया । देश में पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान वनों के संरक्षण और विकास पर वार्षिक औसत व्यय लगभग 407 करोड़ रुपये है ।

(ग) उपग्रह प्रतिबिम्बिकी का प्रयोग करके भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण द्वारा किए गए सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार 1981–83 के वर्षों में राजस्थान में 12.3 लाख हेक्टेयर वनाच्छादित क्षेत्र था उसके बाद कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया